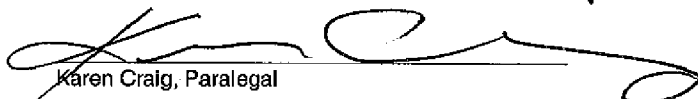


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Karen Craig, Paralegal

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/588,854
Applicant : Kenzo Kase
Filed : August 9, 2006
Title : BODY ADHESIVE TAPE
TC/A.U. : 3772
Examiner : Victoria J. Hicks
Docket No. : 30259-1001

Confirmation No. 2013

**RESPONSE UNDER
37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a)
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**
Examining Group 3772

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

In response to the final office action dated December 23, 2009, Applicant requests entry of the following amendments:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

Listing of the Claims: Please replace any previous listing of the claims with the following:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) An adhesive tape comprising:
a stretch base material;
an adhesive layer comprising a plurality of grooves disposed on said base material, wherein said grooves extend horizontally in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of said tape;
said grooves not containing adhesive thereby facilitating breathability; and
said grooves not extending across the entire width of said tape but having adhesive between said grooves.

20. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein a length of said grooves changes stepwise repeating a gradual increase and decrease in said tape longitudinal direction.

21. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein spacing between adjacent grooves decreases stepwise from a shortest groove toward a longest groove.

22. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein spacing between adjacent grooves increases stepwise from a shortest groove toward a longest groove.

23. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein said base material is exposed through said grooves.

24. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein said grooves are disposed parallel to each other.

25. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein a width of said grooves changes with expansion and contraction of said tape.

26. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein a thickness of said adhesive layer changes with expansion and contraction of said tape thereby changing a depth of said grooves.

27. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 further comprising a peelable exfoliate layer disposed on said adhesive layer.

28. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein said array comprises a repetitive pattern.

29. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein said grooves are not arranged at regular spacing in said longitudinal direction.

30. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 19 wherein said grooves comprise different lengths.

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 19-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kase (U.S. Patent 5,861,348). This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly in light of amended independent claim 19.

Applicant's claim 19 recites:

An adhesive tape comprising: a stretch base material; an adhesive layer comprising a plurality of grooves disposed on said base material, wherein said grooves extend horizontally in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of said tape; said grooves not containing adhesive thereby facilitating breathability; and said grooves not extending across the entire width of said tape but having adhesive between said grooves.

Nowhere does Kase disclose or even contemplate an adhesive tape comprising grooves that extend horizontally in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of the tape as recited in Applicant's claims. In sharp contrast, Kase teaches "pressure-sensitive adhesive layers are formed so that they meander left and right along the length of the tape". See Kase Abstract. Kase further teaches, "a plurality of wavy strip-shaped pressure-sensitive adhesive layers". See Col. 6, lines 31-32. Thus, Kase teaches away from Applicant's claimed grooves that extend horizontally in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction, since the adhesive layer in Kase is wave shaped. The wave shaped adhesive layers of Kase meander vertically down the longitudinal direction of the tape, which is opposite of Applicant's recited claims. None of the wave shapes extend horizontally in the width direction of the tape as recited by Applicant. Therefore, Kase fails to teach each and every element of Applicant's recited claims.

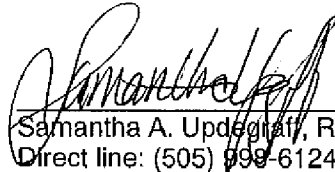
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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